

The eggs therefore may belong to one of these species, or to an unknown one.

36. *TALEGALLUS FUSCIROSTRIS*, Salvad.

The measurements of the egg of *Talegallus fuscirostris* are still unpublished, so far as I know. The Dresden Museum has a specimen from Aru (*Ribbe* and *Kühn*): length 97 mm., breadth 60 mm. Vinaceous cinnamon (*Ridgway*, pl. iv. no. 15). Elliptical oval. Judging from the colour, the eggs from Constantine Harbour, described above, do not belong to *T. fuscirostris*.

37. *TALEGALLUS JOBIENSIS*, A. B. M.

In the year 1874 I published the measurements of two eggs of *Talegallus jobiensis* from Jobi (*Sitz. Akad. Wien*, lxi. p. 88), viz. 88–93 × 60–62 mm. I then had no good instrument at my disposal for the measuring of eggs, and am obliged now to correct my statement. Length 95–98·3 mm., breadth 60·4–61·5 mm. Colour and form similar to the two eggs described above from Constantine Harbour, but rather more reddish and more pointed, in structure smoother. The measurements of the eggs of *Talegallus cuvieri*, Less., *Aepyodius arfakianus* (Salv.), and *Aep. bruijnii* (Oust.), are still unpublished, so far as I know.

	Length. mm.	Breadth. mm.
<i>Telegallus jobiensis</i>	95–98·3	60·4–61·5
— <i>fuscirostris</i>	97	60
— sp. inc. ex Nov. Guin.	100·4	62·4

38. *ORTYGOMETRA CINEREA* (V.).

Kurakakaul, North coast of New Britain (*Kubary*).

XLII.—*On some Birds of the Argentine Republic.* By A. H. HOLLAND. *With Notes* by P. L. SCLATER.

[MR. A. H. HOLLAND has kindly sent to me for examination a collection of beautifully prepared birds lately made by himself at the Estancia of Espartillar, near the Ranchos Station of the Southern Railway of Buenos Ayres, where he is resi-

dent. The collection contains examples of 65 species*, all of which are included in 'Argentine Ornithology' except one. This is the Gull-billed Tern (*Sterna anglica*), of which a single example (marked *female*), apparently an adult in winter plumage, is in the series.

Mr. Holland sends me also a few remarks on some of the species, which he has noticed. I trust that he may continue his researches, and furnish us with more information, as there

* The following is a list of them:—

- | | |
|---|---------------------------------------|
| 1. <i>Mimus modulator</i> . | 34. <i>Polyborus tharus</i> . |
| 2. <i>Poliophtila dumicola</i> . | 35. <i>Ardea cocoi</i> . |
| 3. <i>Troglodytes furvus</i> . | 36. — <i>egretta</i> . |
| 4. <i>Anthus correndera</i> . | 37. — <i>candidissima</i> . |
| 5. <i>Parula pitiayumi</i> . | 38. <i>Ardetta involucris</i> . |
| 6. <i>Progne tapera</i> . | 39. <i>Nycticorax obscurus</i> . |
| 7. <i>Atticora cyano-leuca</i> . | 40. <i>Plegadis guarauna</i> . |
| 8. <i>Spermophila cærulescens</i> . | 41. <i>Ajaja rosea</i> . |
| 9. <i>Paroaria cucullata</i> . | 42. <i>Phœnicopterus ignipalliat-</i> |
| 10. <i>Embernagra platensis</i> . | <i>tus</i> . |
| 11. <i>Sycalis pelzelni</i> . | 43. <i>Chauna chavaria</i> . |
| 12. <i>Molothrus bonariensis</i> . | 44. <i>Querquedula cyanoptera</i> . |
| 13. — <i>badius</i> . | 45. — <i>flavirostris</i> . |
| 14. <i>Leistes superciliaris</i> . | 46. — <i>versicolor</i> . |
| 15. <i>Tænioptera coronata</i> . | 47. <i>Dafila spinicauda</i> . |
| 16. <i>Lichenops perspicillatus</i> . | 48. — <i>bahamensis</i> . |
| 17. <i>Serpophaga subcristata</i> . | 49. <i>Spatula platalea</i> . |
| 18. <i>Pitangus bolivianus</i> . | 50. <i>Metopiana peposaca</i> . |
| 19. <i>Pyrocephalus rubineus</i> . | 51. <i>Nomonyx dominicus</i> . |
| 20. <i>Tyrannus melancholicus</i> . | 52. <i>Zenaida maculata</i> . |
| 21. <i>Milvulus tyrannus</i> . | 53. <i>Fulica leucoptera</i> . |
| 22. <i>Furnarius rufus</i> . | 54. <i>Aramus scolopaceus</i> . |
| 23. <i>Leptasthenura ægithaloides</i> . | 55. <i>Vanellus cayennensis</i> . |
| 24. <i>Synallaxis hudsoni</i> . | 56. <i>Himantopus brasiliensis</i> . |
| 25. <i>Anumbius acuticaudatus</i> . | 57. <i>Totanus melanoleucus</i> . |
| 26. <i>Guirapirigua</i> . | 58. <i>Actiturus bartramius</i> . |
| 27. <i>Coccyzus melanocoryphus</i> . | 59. <i>Sterna anglica</i> . |
| 28. <i>Bolborhynchus monachus</i> . | 60. — <i>trudeauii</i> . |
| 29. <i>Asio brachyotus</i> . | 61. <i>Larus dominicanus</i> . |
| 30. <i>Speotyto cunicularia</i> . | 62. — <i>maculipennis</i> . |
| 31. <i>Circus cinereus</i> . | 63. <i>Æchmophorus major</i> . |
| 32. <i>Tinnunculus cinnamominus</i> . | 64. <i>Tachybaptus dominicus</i> . |
| 33. <i>Milvago chimango</i> . | 65. <i>Nothura maculosa</i> . |

is yet much to be done in working out the Argentine Avifauna.—P. L. S.]

1. WHITE-THROATED FINCH.

This little Finch I am unable to name, as I cannot find a description to suit it.

The nest was placed in the fork of a poplar-tree low down. It was composed of twigs, rootlets, thistle-down, leaves, and moss, and lined with white cow-hair. The eggs were pointed, white, faintly spotted with pale red.

[The specimen sent, marked ♂, appears to be a female or young female of *Spermophila cerulescens* (Arg. Orn. i. p. 46), but I should like to see more examples of both sexes.—P. L. S.]

† 2. TYRANNUS MELANCHOLICUS. (Arg. Orn. i. p. 158.)

In November I took a nest of this bird in a small Eucalyptus wood. It contained eggs of *Molothrus bonariensis*. The nest was placed at the outermost end of a bough, in a very exposed situation, and was very slight, being composed of a few roots and twigs firmly interwoven and lined with a very little hay.

The nest contained two eggs of the Tyrant and two of the Cow-bird; those of the latter were white, thinly spotted with pale red.

3. LEPTASTHENURA ÆGITHALOIDES. (Arg. Orn. i. p. 177.)

Common. In October, during the last week, I found three nests of this Spine-tail, all of which were in those of deserted Oven-birds. The first nest was composed of numberless soft feathers, with a little grass as a lining, the others of feathers and wool, with no lining besides. The eggs were three in one nest and one in another; they are white, very broad towards the larger end, and thick-shelled, without any gloss.

4. BUTEO, sp. inc.

This Buzzard arrives here towards the middle of January in company with *Buteo swainsoni*, the latter in immense flocks. In the daytime the flock departs over the camp,

soaring in a straggling body in search of beetles, but returns at sundown to roost in the monte of Eucalyptus trees. They are anything but shy, and take little notice of being shot at. I am not certain when or where they depart.

[As Mr. Holland supposes, this is the young of *Buteo swainsoni* (Arg. Orn. ii. p. 59).—P. L. S.]

5. *CHAUNA CHAVARIA*. (Arg. Orn. ii. p. 119.)

[One of the most interesting specimens in Mr. Holland's collection is the skin of a chick of the Crested Screamer (*Chauna chavaria*) apparently quite recently hatched.

Mr. E. Gibson (Ibis, 1880, p. 166) has given us some excellent notes on the breeding-habits of this strange bird. "The young, when hatched," he says, "are covered with an abundance of beautifully soft down, of a yellow-brown colour." This, as is seen in the present specimen, is quite true. The down is very dense, very soft, and continuous over the whole of the body above and beneath, leaving only the bill, lores, rim round the eye, feet, and lower part of tibiae naked. But the head in the present specimen is tinged with rufous, and on the back the down is slightly tinged with blackish.

The condition of the chick, therefore, in this form, as well as the structure of the egg, strongly tend to confirm the view originally put forward by Parker (P. Z. S. 1863, p. 511) that the nearest living allies of the Palamadeidæ are the Anseres. The egg of *Chauna* is so much like that of a Goose (*Anser*), that it is difficult to tell any difference. The characters of the chick serve to confirm this resemblance.—P. L. S.]

6. *METOPIANA PEPOSACA*. (Arg. Orn. ii. p. 137.)

In October and November almost every nest of *Fulica armillata* and *Fulica leucoptera*, as also many nests of *Larus maculipennis* and a few of *Chauna chavaria*, contained parasitic eggs. These eggs were undoubtedly those of a Duck, though they varied in size and shape, the largest being $2\frac{3}{4}$ in. $\times 1\frac{3}{4}$; in colour they were of a dirty white. This Duck, I think, must be *Metopiana peposaca*, as these birds were extremely plentiful this year throughout the breeding-season, and I have taken the eggs of all the other Ducks here that

are at all common, excepting those of the Shoveller. These eggs were invariably covered over with a fresh lining in the nests of *Fulica armillata*, but not in the others.

+ 7. STERNA ANGLICA.

Viralva aranea, Darw. Zool. Beagle, iii. p. 143 (Bahia Blanca).

Gelochelidon anglica, Sel. et Salv. P. Z. S. 1871, p. 572 (S.E. Brazil).

As mentioned above, this species was accidentally omitted in 'Argentine Ornithology.' Darwin obtained a specimen of it near Bahia Blanca, and Rogers got examples on the coast of S.E. Brazil. Mr. Holland sends a single, apparently adult female in winter plumage.

+ 8. STERNA TRUDEAUII. (Arg. Orn. ii. p. 195.)

This Tern is rare with us, excepting in the breeding-season, when it appears suddenly and in numbers, either singly or in pairs.

Whilst hunting through a large gullery of *Larus maculipennis* early in November, I came upon a corner of the lagoon entirely occupied by these pretty Terns. There was little shelter for the nests, a few scattered willow-stumps, but no rushes or flags, and the water was some $4\frac{1}{2}$ feet deep. The nests were all placed close together, as the Gulls' nests were, thirty or forty of them, each a foot or two from its neighbour, and so on; they were very shallow structures, composed of green water-grasses (very succulent ones and wet), with no lining, and supported on the water by the thick growth of grass underneath. The eggs were three to four in number, of the usual Tern-type, varying from the dark, thickly spotted and blotched varieties to the thinly spotted pale ones; in no two nests were the eggs similar. As I approached the ternery (if there is such an expression) the birds became very anxious, darting down close to my head as I stood over a nest and uttering shrill cries. The sight was a beautiful one, with the thousands of Gulls and these graceful Terns as well, all showing beautifully against a blue sky.

+ 9. LARUS CIRRHOCEPHALUS. (Arg. Orn. ii. p. 201.)

This Gull is very plentiful here in the breeding-season, but I was unable to find its nesting-place.